

latter is valuable. What useful part this bird plays in the economy of nature is difficult to imagine. As is well known it builds no nest of its own but lays an egg here and there in the nests of other birds smaller than itself. The poor little chipping sparrow appears to be the commonest sufferer. The young cowbird outgrows the lawful heirs of the nest and soon monopolizes it. It must keep the faithful mother busy satisfying the stomach of this voracious intruder.

The red-winged blackbird is quite common in the marsh at St. Louis dam and breeds there regularly. These birds fly over the high land well into the arboretum, probably after some kind of food.

Every year a few pairs of meadow larks breed, and as their nests are hard to find they usually rear their young. The meadow lark arrives early in the spring and its peculiar notes are readily recognized.

The Baltimore oriole is closely related to the meadow lark, but the habits of the birds are very different. As is well known, the hanging nest is built near the end of a pendulous branch and as large trees are usually chosen the nest is fairly safe from being robbed, though, we regret to say, boys with catapults sometimes play sad havoc with them. The oriole builds in the large elms at the Farm.

One of the noisiest birds is the bronzed grackle, which is also among the first arrivals in the spring. It builds in the large pine trees.

Although the purple finch does not breed in large numbers several nests have been found at the Farm. This is not a shy bird and a nest has been found within one hundred feet of one of the residences at the Farm. The white spruce appears to be the favourite tree, and the nest is built from fifteen to twenty feet from the ground. The female is quite tame when brooding, and one can approach quite close to the nest without disturbing her. A rare nest of the American goldfinch has been found late in the season and it is probable that quite a number of pairs breed at the Farm, but they breed late when few are looking for nests.

The European house sparrow is closely related to the American goldfinch. This bird begins to breed early and continues late,